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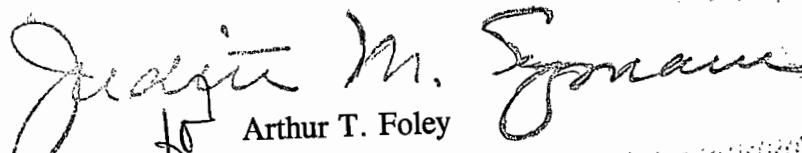
970075

SUBJECT: FSP - Louisiana - Request to Waive Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as Amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996

TO: Albert M. McIlwain, Acting Director
Food Stamp Program
Southwest Region

This is in response to the Louisiana State Agency's request for an extension of waivers #970025 and #970075 which exempted individuals residing in a number of parishes from the work requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents. Because all of the requested parishes are designated as Labor Surplus Areas, they are being approved under waiver #970075.

Our response is attached. If you have any questions, please contact James A. Walsh of my staff at 703-305-2531.


Arthur T. Foley
Director
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: John Knaus, Maurice Tracy, All Regions (except SWRO), Civil Rights
CPB (circulate)

FNS:FSP:PDD:JWalsh:final:10/10/98:va
FILE: ABAWDS
DIR: I:970075ext - Memo

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date
11-12-98	Walsh	11-12-98			
2000.10	Walsh	11/12/98			

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Waiver Response

1. **Waiver serial number:** 970075
2. **Type of request:** Extension and modification.
3. **Primary regulation citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, P. L. 104-193.
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Louisiana
6. **Region:** SWRO
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), P. L. 104-193, provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36 month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon the request of a State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The State agency is requesting an extension to its waiver for individuals who reside in areas which do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals subject to Section 824 of the PRWORA.

This waiver would allow an exemption from this requirement for groups of individuals who reside in areas designated as labor surplus areas (LSAs) by the U. S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration.

The following areas have been approved under waiver #970025: Bienville, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Red River, Richland, and West Carroll Parishes, based on unemployment over 10 percent; and Caldwell, Grant, and St. James Parishes, based on their designation as LSAs, for the period ending December 31, 1998.

Additional areas have been approved under waiver #970075 based on their designation as LSAs for the period ending December 31, 1998: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bossier (including Shreveport City and excluding Bossier City), Claiborne, DeSoto, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Natchitoches, Point Coupee, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. John Baptist, St. Martin, Tensas, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Winn Parishes, and the cities of Alexandria, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Iberia, and New Orleans.

In its current request for extension of waiver #970075, the State agency has included all of the above parishes in the waiver request, based on their designations as LSAs, with the exception of Acadia, Ascension, and West Baton Rouge Parishes. Ascension and West Baton Rouge Parishes no longer qualify as LSAs, and the State agency does not wish a continuation of a waiver for Acadia Parish. A waiver is also requested for Jackson, St. Landry, and St. Mary Parishes and Bossier City, based on their designations as LSAs.

According to the State agency, implementation of this waiver would continue to ease the burden of individuals to comply with work requirements which are unreasonable, given the local economic environment. This waiver would also provide for more efficient operation of the State agency by concentrating effort and resources in regard to work requirements on those households most likely to benefit.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the State agency's request to exempt residents of the parishes of Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Point Coupee, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. James, St. John Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tensas, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn and the cities of Alexandria, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Iberia, and New Orleans, based on their designation as LSAs, from the work requirement provisions of Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA.

10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, which allows the Secretary to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in Section 6(o) for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** For those parishes which are exempt based on an insufficient number of jobs, please submit supporting unemployment data which relies on standard BLS data and/or methods.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver expires on December 31, 1999.
14. **Limitation on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Louisiana State Agency.
15. **Quality Control Procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** August 4, 1998
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**